

**Email of 4 March 2009 to the Clerk of the Committee from the Head of Communications and Parliamentary Relations, UK Statistics Authority**

Thank you for your email dated 12 February. I apologise for the delay in responding. The Committee asked for sight of the email trail which led to Sir Michael Scholar writing to Jeremy Heywood, Permanent Secretary at 10, Downing Street on 12 December 2008 regarding the release of hospital admission statistics as part of a Government announcement about knife crime on 11 December. The email trail is attached. We have followed the usual convention

redacting the names of junior officials at grades below Deputy Director (Grade 5, Senior Civil Service) level or where we have been unable to establish the grade of the individual concerned. Please let us know if you would like any

Sent: 10/12/2008 11:59

To: [Mario.Dunn@dh](mailto:Mario.Dunn@dh) [REDACTED]  
Cc: [GBeales@no10](mailto:GBeales@no10) [REDACTED]

Subject: knife wounding figures

Mario - we spoke. Here is the statement that the PM would like us to publish tomorrow as part of the knife crime announcement. As discussed, like the equivalent CJS figures, this does cover stats which are covered by national statistics, but it is only a subset and we will be making clear that these figs are provisional and the final figs, subject to the usual nat statistics rigour, will be coming out in the usual way (if there is any particular form of words you'd like us to use, to convey that, let me know).

Can you confirm whether this is ok as soon as possible, if poss by 2pm?

Thanks.

"Hospital admissions in the ten TKAP areas for knife or sharp instrument woundings were 27% lower for July to September 2008 compared to the same period in 2007."

From: Department of Health official (policy)

Sent: 10 December 2008 13:16

To: [Mario.Dunn@dh](mailto:Mario.Dunn@dh) [REDACTED]  
Cc: Department Of Health official (policy);  
Department of Health official (private office);  
NHS Information Centre statistical officer;  
NHS Information Centre statistical officer

Subject: Re: Fw: knife wounding figures  
Importance: High

Mario,

I just tried to call.

I have spoken to [REDACTED] at the Information Centre and she is seeking

From: NHS Information Centre statistical officer  
Sent: 10/12/2008 13:56

Cc: Department Of Health official (policy)  
Department of Health Official (private office);  
NHS Information Centre statistical officer;  
[Andy.Sutherland@ic.nhs](mailto:Andy.Sutherland@ic.nhs) [REDACTED]  
NHS Information Centre statistical officer

Subject: RE: Fw: knife wounding figures

[REDACTED]

I've spoken to a number of people here, including the Head of Profession at the NHS IC and our view is that these provisional data are NOT released.

Our reasons are:

1) As explained already these are provisional data for 2007/08 and 2008/09 and

From: Department of Health official (policy)  
Sent: 10 December 2009 15:54

Cc: Andy.Sutherland@ic.nhs

From: Andy.Sutherland@ic.nhs [REDACTED]

To: Department of Health official (policy); NHS Information Centre statistical

officer  
Cc: NHS Information Centre statistical officer;  
Department Of Health official (policy)  
NHS Information Centre statistical officer;  
Mario.Dunn@dh [REDACTED]  
Department of Health official (private office);  
Department of Health Statistician  
Department Of Health official (policy)

Subject: RE: knife wounding figures

[REDACTED]  
I have discussed this with GNS and within the IC. If Ms10 go ahead and publish

From: Andy Sutherland@ic.nhs [REDACTED]

Sent: 10/12/2008 16:57

To: Office for National Statistics official (policy)  
cc: NIS Information Centre statistical officer

[REDACTED]

Just for info at this stage and so that you are aware of the advice I have given. I (or

From: Mike.Hughes@ons [REDACTED]  
Sent: 11 December 2008 11:03